U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT
December 21, 1959

Cigarettes and Lung Cancer

Chicago—Now the "Journal" of the American Medical Association has joined the argument over smoking and cancer. An editorial in the magazine questioned statements by U.S. Surgeon General Leroy E. Burney, said there is not yet enough evidence to establish that cigarettes are the chief cause of lung cancer.

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THE NEW YORK TIMES
New York, New York
December 11, 1959

BURNEY DISPUTED ON CANCER STUDY

A. M. A. Questions Report Listing Smoking as Main Factor in Lung Disease

CHICAGO, Dec. 10 (AP)—The Journal of the American Medical Association said today that there was insufficient evidence "to warrant the assumption" that cigarette smoking was the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer.

In an editorial, The Journal questioned conclusions in a report by Dr. LeRoy E. Burney, Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, listing smoking as the main factor leading to such an increase and concluding that heavy smokers are more prone to lung cancer than others.

Dr. Burney's report, summarizing research on lung cancer, was carried two weeks ago in The Journal.

The Journal editorial recalled that Dr. Burney's report had identified the Public Health Service "with those who consider that the evidence to date implicates smoking as the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer."

"A number of authorities who have examined the same evidence cited by Dr. Burney do not agree with his conclusions," the Journal continued. "Although the studies reveal a relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer that seems more than coincidental, they do not explain why, even when smoking patterns are the same, case rates are higher among men than among women and among urban than among rural populations.

"Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position.

"Until definitive studies are forthcoming, the physician can fulfill his responsibility by watching the situation closely, keeping informed of the facts, and advising his patients on the basis of his appraisal of those facts."

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WASHINGTON POST
Washington, D. C.
December 12, 1959

Smoking-Cancer Link Is Questioned by AMA

CHICAGO, Dec. 11 (AP) The American Medical Association Journal says there is insufficient evidence "to warrant the assumption" that cigarette smoke is the major factor in the increase in lung cancer.

A Journal editorial yesterday questioned conclusions in a report by Dr. Leroy E. Burney, Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, carried in the Journal two weeks ago.

Dr. Burney's report listed smoke as the main factor in the increase of lung cancer and concluded that heavy smokers were more prone to the disease.

The Journal editorial said: "A number of authorities who have examined the same evidence cited by Dr. Burney do not agree with his conclusions. Although the studies reveal a relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer that seems more than coincidental, they do not explain why, even when smoking patterns are the same, case rates are higher among men than among women and among urban than among rural populations.

"Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position.

"Until definitive studies are forthcoming, the physician can fulfill his responsibility by watching the situation closely, keeping informed of the facts, and advising his patients on the basis of his appraisal of those facts."

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THE MIAMI HERALD
(front page)
Miami, Florida
December 11, 1959

'Insufficient Evidence'

Medical Journal Takes Issue With Cigaret-Cancer Report

CHICAGO—(AP)—The Journal of the American Medical Association said Thursday that there is insufficient evidence "to warrant the assumption" that cigaret smoking is the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer.

In an editorial, the Journal questions conclusions in a report by Dr. Leroy E. Burney, surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service, listing smoking as the main factor leading to such an increase and concluding that heavy smokers are more prone to lung cancer than others.

Burney's report, summarizing research on lung cancer, was carried two weeks ago in the Journal.

The Journal editorial recalled that Burney's report identified the Public Health Service "with those who consider that the evidence to date implicates smoking as the principal factor in the increase in lung cancer." The editorial continues:

"A number of authorities who have examined the same evidence cited by Dr. Burney do not agree with his conclusions. Although the studies reveal a relationship between cigaret smoking and cancer that seems more than coincidental, they do not explain why, even when smoking patterns are the same, case rates are higher among men than among women and among urban than among rural populations.

"Neither the proponents nor the opponents of the smoking theory have sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or-none authoritative position.

"The Public Health Service can best meet its obligations by collecting and disseminating data for all sources and making known to the health and medical professions its own evaluations of such data."

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